METHODS AND COMPOUNDS FOR MODULATING MELANOCORTIN RECEPTOR LIGAND BINDING AND ACTIVITY

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention relates to methods and agonist/antagonist compounds for
5   modulating melanocortin receptor-ligand binding. Also included is a method of identifying
agonists and/or antagonists that bind to a ligand binding site for a melanocortin receptor of
interest. Agonists and antagonists of ligand binding to melanocortin receptors also are
provided. The invention is exemplified by identification and manipulation of the C-
terminus of the human agouti related protein, which binds melanocortin receptors 3 and 4,
10   and the production of AGRP peptidomimetics that are melanocortin receptor ligands. The
methods can be applied to other melanocortin receptor agonists and antagonists.

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